

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

August 27, 2002

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chair
Phoenix: Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chair
ADOT: Dan Lance
Avondale: Dave Fitzhugh
Buckeye: Joe Blanton
Chandler: Patrice Kraus
Fountain Hills: Randy Harrell
*Gila Bend: Shane Dille
*Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Jim Book
Goodyear: Grant Anderson

*Guadalupe, Antonio Figueroa
Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
Maricopa County: Chris Plumb for Tom Buick
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Ron Krosting
Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli
Peoria: Burton Charron for David Moody
RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth for Ken Driggs
Scottsdale: Michelle Korf
Surprise: Scott Phillips for Miryam Gutier
Tempe: Mary O'Connor

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Pat McDermott, Chandler
*Street Committee: Don Herp, Phoenix
ITS Committee: Jim Book

Pedestrian Working Group: Reed Kempton, Maricopa County Dept of Transportation
*Telecommunications Advisory Group: Jim Hull

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG
Ken Hall, MAG
Roger Herzog, MAG
Stuart Boggs, RPTA
Steve Tate, MAG
John Dugan, PHAROS Corporation/BNSF
Dawn Coomer, MAG

Andy Smith, ADOT
John Farry, Valley Metro Rail
Jim Dickey, RPTA
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Karen Calliham, MAG
Ali Makarachi, City of Phoenix
Jason Stephens, MAG

1. Call to Order

In the absence of Mr. Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Bryan Jungwirth called the

meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of June 25, 2002 Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Mr. Jungwirth asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Dave Fitzhugh moved to approve the minutes as presented, with Ms. Michelle Korf seconding. The minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Call to the Audience

Mr. Jungwirth noted that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience, and moved to the next item on the Agenda.

4. Transportation Manager's Report/Report on the MAG Regional Freeway Program

Mr. Jungwirth introduced MAG Transportation Manager, Mr. Eric Anderson, who gave the Transportation Manager's report. Mr. Anderson called the Committee's attention to Attachment Number Two of the TRC Agenda Packet, and stated that a revised table was distributed to each member prior to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Anderson informed those in attendance that a safety project for the City of Phoenix was added to the table as part of TIP Amendment Number Two. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that letters from the cities of Phoenix and Glendale were also distributed prior to the meeting. He said that the letters were inadvertently left out of the Early-Phase Input Opportunity Report.

Mr. Anderson then provided a brief overview of Phase I of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan, and said that Mr. Roger Herzog, MAG Senior Project Manager, would provide an overview of the Draft values, goals and objectives from the plan later on during the meeting. Mr. Anderson also stated that as part of the planning process, the consultant developed four regional growth scenarios which were intended to provide insight into the future transportation needs of the MAG Region. He said that the scenarios would be presented at a joint regional transportation plan meeting, which would invite members of the MAG Planners Stakeholders Group and the TRC. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the scheduled meeting would take place on September 18, 2002, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Saguaro Conference Room of the MAG Offices. Mr. Anderson also informed those in attendance that the Transportation Policy Committee was going to be holding a retreat at the Carefree Inn. He stated that there will be a dinner and reception for the Transportation Policy Committee on September 20th, and that the retreat would be conducted on September 21st. Mr. Anderson said that a briefing notebook will be issued to members two weeks in advance of the retreat.

Mr. Anderson then addressed the recent progress which was taking place on the regional subarea studies. He stated that alternative packages for each of the subarea studies were in the process of being identified. Mr. Anderson then stated that the next meeting of the TRC would be held on September 19, 2002, which is on a Thursday. Mr. Anderson asked members of the Committee if they would like to move the meeting to September 24th, in order to report on the initial findings and concerns of the Transportation Policy Committee, which was scheduled for September 21st. Discussion followed, and it was decided that the meeting would remain scheduled for September 19, 2002. There were no questions from members of the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's report. During Mr. Anderson's report, Vice-Chairperson Jack Tevlin arrived at the meeting, and assumed the position of chair for the remainder of the meeting.

5. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin introduced Mr. Eric Anderson of MAG, to provide an update on the MAG Freeway Program. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that there were additional copies of a handout located at the back of the room, which provided information on monthly collections for the Regional Area Road Fund. Mr. Anderson stated that collected revenues for four of the last six months were negative, and that based on recent news he had received from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), July revenues were also down by approximately 2.1 percent from the previous year.

Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that two individuals were recently hired to fill open positions within MAG's Transportation Division. He said that Mr. Xiao Qin was recently hired as a ITS/Safety Planner, and will be working for Mr. Sarath Joshua, MAG ITS Program Manager. Also, Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Ali Farhan was hired as a Decision Support Analyst II, and will be working for Mr. Mark Schlappi, MAG System Analysis Program Manager.

There were several questions by members of the Committee regarding the date of the next TRC meeting. Discussion followed, and Vice-Chairperson Tevlin asked whether it would be appropriate to cancel the September TRC Meeting, and conduct the next one in October of 2002. Mr. Eric Anderson indicated that it may be somewhat premature to determine that at this time, and stated he would check on various transportation planning issues of concern in the upcoming weeks to determine if this could be done. There were no further questions, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's presentation.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin addressed Agenda Item #7 (FY 2003 Transportation Stakeholder Early Input Process) and asked the members in attendance if they would like to entertain a motion to approve as presented, or to remove the

item for further discussion. Mr. Bryan Jungwirth moved to approve the consent agenda item as presented. Ms. Mary O'Connor seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by subsequent voice vote of the Committee.

8. Update on the MAG High Capacity Transit Plan

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin introduced Mr. David McCrossan of the IBI Group, who provided the Committee with an update on the MAG High Capacity Transit Plan. Mr. McCrossan provided an overview of the various forms of high capacity transit services, and addressed commuter rail, light rail and bus rapid transit. He provided an overview of the project vision, and provided information on commuter rail service along freight corridors; addressed high-capacity transit alternatives in other corridors; and addressed feeder bus networks serving rail stations and park and ride lots. Mr. McCrossan then addressed various aspects of the project's milestones and their anticipated completion dates, which included the following: public and agency involvement plan (February 2002); needs and opportunities assessment (May 2002); identification of alternatives (July 2002); evaluation of alternatives (October 2002); regional high capacity transit plan (December 2002); and the completion of the Final Report (December 2002). To date on the project, he stated that they have already conducted agency interviews, conducted an analysis of other metropolitan transit systems, conducted a selection of preliminary corridors and technologies, and conducted an initial corridor assessment and identified alternative, high-capacity transit networks. He addressed a number of transit mode performance thresholds and discussed detailed performance data associated with transit corridors.

Mr. McCrossan then addressed some of the key MAG Corridors in the region. He stated that the corridors are broadly defined and are approximately 5 miles wide. Mr. McCrossan identified the primary radial corridors as the Union Pacific South, the Union Pacific Southeast, the Union Pacific Yuma, BNSF, and I-10 Southeast. He also stated that some of the key north-south corridors identified within the study were State Route 51, Scottsdale/Rural Road, Loop 101, Loop 303, Power Road and I-17; and that the key East-West corridors included Camelback Road, Bell Road, Main Street (Mesa), Glendale/Cactus, and Chandler Boulevard. From the overall list of corridors, he presented a series of slides on some of the desirable corridors under consideration, which included the BNSF Railway, Scottsdale/Rural Road, Union Pacific Railway South, and the Union Pacific Railway Yuma. He also addressed population and employment densities and provided an overview of corridor ratings. Discussion followed, and Mr. McCrossan answered a number of questions from members of the Committee pertaining to socioeconomic numbers, identified technologies and planned corridor configurations.

Mr. McCrossan then presented two potential networks to the Committee. Network 1 placed a primary emphasis on radial routes; whereas Network 2 considered a combination of commuter rail and bus rapid transit/light rail throughout the MAG region. Mr. McCrossan

summarized his presentation to the Committee by addressing several of the remaining steps in the process, prior to the plan's scheduled completion date of December 31, 2002. There were no further questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. McCrossan's presentation.

9. Proposed Amendment to the FY 2003-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Highway and Transit Projects

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin introduced Mr. Eric Anderson, who provided the Committee with an overview of the FY 2003-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment for Highway and Transit projects. Mr. Anderson called the Committee's attention to the revised Attachment Two, which was distributed to each member in attendance prior to the meeting. Mr. Anderson addressed the added project which he spoke of earlier in the meeting for the City of Phoenix. Also, he addressed the Gilbert Road project listed on the revised table, and informed the Committee that the Air Quality staff at MAG still had to perform a regional emissions analysis on the proposed amendment to the TIP. Mr. Chris Plumb made a motion to accept the Proposed Amendment to the FY 2003-2007 TIP. Mr. Jeff Martin seconded the motion, which was subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. There were no further questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's presentation.

10. Regional Plan Update

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin introduced Mr. Roger Herzog of MAG, who provided an update of the Regional Transportation Plan's Draft values, goals and objectives. Mr. Herzog called the Committee's attention to Attachment Number Three of the TRC Packet, and stated that to date, there have been many versions of the values, goals and objectives. Mr. Herzog stated that the most recent version was intended to offer a simple, concise overview of the regional planning effort's direction with respect to regional policy, and consisted of 4 goals and 13 objectives. Mr. Herzog stated that the concepts were drawn from the focus groups and expert panels that were part of the ongoing planning process, and that they also consisted of information and extensive research taken from existing plans.

Mr. Herzog stated that the overlying values for the region consisted of the following guiding statements; The opportunity for everyone to improve their lives; a strong growing economy; the natural environment; quality life-style options; and effective and efficient use of public resources. Mr. Herzog provided an in-depth overview of the transportation goals and objectives for the region. The primary transportation goals that were presented by Mr. Herzog consisted of maintenance and safety, access and mobility, sustaining the environment, and accountability and planning. Mr. Herzog provided a brief chronological overview of the Phase I process, and noted that prioritization criteria, and a variety of

investment policies that would be developed in the upcoming Phase II process would be guided by the values, goals and objectives.

Discussion followed, and Ms. Mary O'Connor expressed her concerns over Objectives 2A and 3A in Attachment Three of the packet. She stated that MAG's mention of pedestrians was somewhat weak, and that she was concerned about residential encroachment. She also stated that it may be somewhat offensive to individuals by utilizing the language "disadvantaged populations" as specified in the Draft values, goals and objectives. Ms. O'Connor indicated that she would follow up with her written comments. Discussion followed, and Mr. Anderson stated that it may be beneficial to take the Draft set of values, goals and objectives before each of the MAG modal committees in an effort to obtain additional input. Further discussion followed, and Mr. Herzog informed the Committee that Phase II of the Regional Transportation Plan process was being initiated, and that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was recently advertised in an effort to obtain submittals. Mr. Herzog stated that the submittal deadline for Phase II was scheduled for September 20, 2002, and he asked the Committee if there would be interested volunteers to serve on an evaluation team to recommend a consultant for the process. There were no additional questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Herzog's presentation.

Following Mr. Herzog's presentation, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin stated that he had received one "Request to Speak" card from the audience while the meeting was in progress, and introduced Mr. Blue Crowley, who addressed members of the Committee. Mr. Crowley addressed the area of 27th Avenue and Grand/Thomas, and stated that instead of this area being pedestrian-oriented, it placed an emphasis on single occupancy vehicles. Mr. Crowley also expressed his concern over the I-10 Express Bus Terminal, and stated that buses would not be able to travel through the clearances, because they are too large for the existing tunnels. Mr. Crowley wanted to know how these issues were going to be adequately addressed. He then addressed downtown Phoenix "peddle carts" and asked the Committee how these were going to be integrated into the intermodal process. He then stated that he wanted to compliment Mr. Dennis Smith and MAG for inviting all stakeholders to sit at the table during the recent early stakeholder input opportunity meeting. There were no further comments or questions, and this concluded Mr. Crowley's remarks.

11. Next Meeting Date

Vice-Chairperson Tevlin informed members in attendance that the next meeting of the Committee would be conducted on September 19, 2002. There being no further business, the Vice-Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:23 p.m.